

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-26 cancelled.

27. (new) Capsular tension ring adapted to be implanted in the equatorial region of a capsular bag after ablation of a cataractous crystalline lens, the capsular tension ring comprising an open or closed annular body having sharp edges and an axial length from about 0.3 mm to about 0.6 mm, the annular body including the sharp edges being made from rigid material over the majority of its circumference and includes at least one flexible material junction between two segments of the rigid material annular body.

28. (new) Ring according to claim 27, wherein the axial width of the annular body is about 0.5 mm.

29. (new) Ring according to claim 27, wherein the axial width of the annular body is from 0.45 mm to 0.55 mm.

30. (new) Ring according to claim 27, wherein the annular body is closed and includes at least two diametrically opposed junctions.

31. (new) Ring according to claim 27, wherein the circumferential extent of the at least each of one junction is from about 0.5% to about 6% of the circumference of the ring.

32. (new) Ring according to claim 27, wherein it is open and the at least one junction is from about 260° to about 320° from a first end.

33. (new) Ring according to claim 32, wherein the open ring has a plurality of said junctions regularly spaced over its circumference.

34. (new) Ring according to claim 33, wherein the open ring has three said junctions at substantially 120° to each other and four segments, two of which subtend an angle of about 60° and two of which subtend an angle of about 120°.

35. (new) Ring according to claim 27, wherein the radial width of the at least one junction and the ends of the segments adjacent said at least one junction is greater than the radial width of the segments of the annular body.

36. (new) Ring according to claim 33, wherein at least one of the ends of the annular body has a flexible material terminal portion that is re-entrant and has a rounded edge.

37. (new) Ring according to claim 33, wherein one of the ends includes an eyelet.

38. (new) Ring according to claim 33, wherein the radial width of the annular body outside the portions of the segments or segments adjacent at least one junction is from 0.10 mm to 0.3 mm.

39. (new) Ring according to claim 27, wherein a plurality of junctions subtending each of said junctions is substantially the same angle.

40. (new) Ring according to claim 27, wherein the rigid material is selected from the group consisting of PMMA and acrylic and the flexible material is selected from the group consisting of HEMA, hydrophilic acrylics and hydrophobic acrylics.

41. (new) Ring according to claim 27, wherein there are covalent bonds between the flexible material and the rigid material of the annular body.

42. (new) Ring according to claim 27, wherein the flexible material comprises cross-linked statistical methacrylate copolymers of methylmethacrylate and hydroxyethylmethacrylate (MMA-HEMA) and the rigid material is PMMA based copolymer.

43.(new) Ring according to claim 27, wherein the rigid material constitutes a chemical modification of the flexible material or the flexible material constitutes a chemical modification of the rigid material.

44.(new) Ring according to claim 27, wherein the flexible material constituting the at least one junction has a glass transition temperature of about 35°C.

45.(new) Ring according to claim 27, wherein the flexible material comprising the at least one junction is a shape memory material.

46.(new) Assembly comprising a capsular tension ring according claim 27 adapted to be implanted in the equatorial region of a capsular bag after ablation of a cataractous crystalline lens, the capsular tension ring comprising an open or closed annular body having sharp edges and an axial length from about 0.3 mm to about 0.6 mm, the annular body including the sharp edges being made from rigid material over the majority of its circumference and includes at least one flexible material junction between two segments of the rigid material annular body, and an intraocular implant of the type having a central optical portion and a peripheral haptic portion including one or more haptic elements

extending radially from the optical portion, the optic portion having a sharp peripheral edge on its posterior side.

47. (new) Assembly according to claim 46, wherein the intraocular lens and the capsular tension ring are in one piece and the optic and haptic portions of the intraocular lens and the connection between the haptic portion and a first end of the ring are made of flexible material.

48. (new) Assembly according to claim 46, wherein the haptic portion has a step facing the second end to receive it when the ring is compressed.

49. (new) Method of fabricating an implantable capsular tension ring adapted to be implanted in the equatorial region of a capsular bag after ablation of a cataractous crystalline lens, the capsular tension ring comprising an open or closed annular body having sharp edges and an axial length from about 0.3 mm to about 0.6 mm, the annular body including the sharp edges being made from rigid material over the majority of its circumference and includes at least one flexible material junction between two segments of the rigid material annular body, the method comprising the steps of preparing the flexible material annular body and then chemically modifying segments of the annular body to form rigid segments, junctions between the rigid material segments remaining of flexible material.

50. (new) Fabrication method according to claim 49, wherein the ends of the rings remains of flexible material.

51. (new) Method of fabricating an implantable capsular tension ring adapted to be implanted in the equatorial region of a capsular bag after ablation of a cataractous crystalline lens, the capsular tension ring comprising an open or closed annular body having sharp edges and an axial length from about 0.3 mm to about 0.6 mm, the annular body including the sharp edges being made from rigid material over the majority of its circumference and includes at least one flexible material junction between two segments of the rigid material annular body, the method comprising preparing the rigid material annular body and one or more regions of the annular body to constitute one or more flexible material junctions between rigid material segments.

52. (new) Fabrication method according to claim 51, wherein the chemically modified regions is one of the ends of the annular body.